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Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database
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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 18/05/2006	Accident number: 283
Accident time: not recorded	Accident Date: 03/02/1992
Where it occurred: not made available	Country: Kuwait
Primary cause: Field control inadequacy (?)	Secondary cause: Inadequate training (?)
Class: Handling accident	Date of main report: [No date recorded]
ID original source: KMOD 47/SER 33	Name of source: Various/AVS 2201:K7
Organisation: Name removed	
Mine/device: Fuze	Ground condition: not applicable
Date record created: 19/02/2004	Date last modified: 19/02/2004
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 1

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system:	Coordinates fixed by:
Map east:	Map north:
Map scale: not recorded	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

no independent investigation available (?)

inadequate investigation (?)

inadequate training (?)

protective equipment not worn (?)

Accident report

The details of Kuwait Boards of Inquiry are considered 'Commercial in Confidence'. The following summary is gathered from various documentary and anecdotal evidence made available during the research. All anecdotal evidence is drawn from sources who were in Kuwait at the time of the accident.

A commercial clearance company was contracted to perform extensive clearance tasks. Third Country Nationals employed (or subcontracted) to the commercial company were not

provided with PPE. This is believed to have been because they were not supposed to be engaged in “dangerous” tasks.

Clearing old AFV and ammunition sites, a small group of TCNs (Third Country Nationals) were “de-bombing” a tank at the time of the accident. The ex-pat supervisor got inside the tank and de-bombed it himself, defuzing and passing the shells and fuzes out. While he was inside the tank he heard an explosion outside and came out to investigate.

The ex-pat was the site supervisor but he was inside the tank so there was no supervision of how the ammunition was handled outside.

When the supervisor emerged he found the victim with a severe fragmentation injury in his head. The cause was believed to have been somebody fooling around and possibly throwing the fuzes from the top of the tank to somebody on the ground. One source reported that the TCNs were “fooling around” with either hand grenades or a Mk118 Rockeye submunition.

The victim was evacuated by ambulance to hospital and eventually repatriated to Thailand. He suffered brain damage, the extent of which is not known.

Compensation paid for severe brain injury was reported to have been US\$20,000.

Victim Report

Victim number: 359	Name: Name removed
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: deminer	Fit for work: no
Compensation: US\$20,000	Time to hospital: not made available
Protection issued: None	Protection used: none

Summary of injuries:

INJURIES

severe Head

COMMENT

Brain damage resulted.

No medical report was made available.

Analysis

The primary cause of this accident is listed as a *“Field control inadequacy”* because the field supervisor was not supervising the inadequately trained people under his command. The secondary cause is listed as *“Inadequate training”*.

There is a paucity of reliable data for many of the accidents that occurred in Kuwait. If any reader has additional detail, please send it for inclusion.